CHAPTER 8
AFTER THE FESTIVAL (PART 2)

August
15th.
Yoi Yoi
Yama.

蔵
KURA

I SEE...

ALL YA REALLY HAFTA REMEMBER IS THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLIP YOUR RIGHT HAND IN.

WHICH JUST MEANS THAT, FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, THE RIGHT FLAP IS ON THE INSIDE.

KIMONOS CLOSE IN THE "MIGI-MAE" OR "RIGHT-FRONT" STYLE.

OKAY!

NOW, TURN AROUND!

O-OKAY.

HOLD THE SLEEVES A MOMENT.

WHADDYA THINK, KIYOTAKA-KUN?

THAT OUGHTA DO IT.

IT SUITS YOU NICELY, AOI-SAN.

TH-THANK YOU...

YES, INDEED! IT'S RIGHT FINE.

I KNOW NOTHIN' ABOUT WHAT YOU YOUNG FOLKS LIKE, SO I ASKED KIYOTAKA-KUN.

HE SAID THIS ONE'D BE PERFECT FOR YOU.

I WAS WORRIED IT'D END UP LOOKIN' RATHER PLAIN,

BUT KIYOTAKA-KUN'S EYE IS AS KEEN AS EVER.

WHAT? YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T PICK IT OUT?

THE STORE'S CLOSIN' EARLY THIS EVENIN', RIGHT?

YOU GOIN' ANYWHERE SPECIAL?

WELL, UM...

I PROMISED TO MEET SOME FRIENDS I HAVEN'T SEEN IN A WHILE.

WHY DON'T YA GO IN THE YUKATA, THEN?

IT'S ON NICE AND TIGHT, SO IT SHOULD STAY IN PLACE ALL NIGHT.

GO ENJOY THE FESTIVAL.

ENJOY IT, HUH?

I HOPE THAT I CAN...

Izumi-san's supposed to come by tonight, too.

It's going to be a long day...

TICK

TOCK

AOI-SAN.

WE'LL BE CLOSING SOON, SO LET'S TIDY UP.

OH, OKAY.

GOOD EVENIN', KIYOTAKA-KUN.

IZUMI-SAN NEVER CAME...

R— RING

WELCOME.

I SEE.

SHE CAME LATE SO THAT THEY COULD BE ALONE.

IT MUST BE GETTING QUITE LIVELY OUT THERE.

SURE IS!

WELL, THEN... I SHOULD GET GOING.

TAKE CARE.

Am I feeling so anxious...

...because I'm worried I might run into my best friend and my ex?

Or is it...

...because I'm worried about Holmes-san and Izumi-san?

SIGH

HOTEL

WAH!

IT'S BEEN AGES!

HEY, IT'S AOI!

THEY'RE NOT HERE...

IT'S SO CUTE!

YOU EVEN CAME IN A YUKATA!

YOU LOOK GREAT!

I'M SO GLAD...

I MUSTERED THE COURAGE AND CAME.

IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU GUYS AGAIN!

IT REALLY HAS BEEN FOREVER!

はっ WHEW

THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO SAY THIS, BUT...

YEAH?

HEY, LISTEN, AOI...

SANAE AND KATSUMI REALLY WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.

WE'RE SORRY, AOI!

THA-THUMP

BUT WE'RE DATING NOW.

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE ALREADY...

IT'S MY FAULT.

I STARTED FALLING FOR KATSUMI.

NO, IT'S MY FAULT.

I STARTED WANTING TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH SANAE.

WE STARTED HANGING OUT MORE TO GET OUR MINDS OFF IT.

AND THINGS JUST KINDA...

WE WERE BOTH JUST SO LONELY AFTER YOU LEFT...

THA-THUMP

...the heck?

What...

THA-THUMP

...all doing this?

BESIDES, THEY ONLY STARTED DATING AFTER HE BROKE UP WITH YOU.

Why are they...

BUT SANAE KIND OF TURNED ANOREXIC AFTER YOU LEFT.

WE THOUGHT IT WAS REALLY AWFUL AT FIRST, TOO.

No...
I get it.

The only reason they wanted to see me...

...was to make themselves feel better.

They were assuming from the start that I'd forgive them.

This is just an act.

I want to run away.

I just want to get out of here.

I no longer have any friends...

...who really care about me.

So I'll go ahead and tell them...

...what they want to hear.

LISTEN, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. WE'D... GROWN APART ANYWAY, YOU KNOW?

SO...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. JUST BE HAPPY, OKAY?

AOI...

THANK YOU...

OH, AOI, YOU'RE SO COOL!

YOU'RE JUST THE BEST!

HEY, WHY DON'T YOU COME TO THE FESTIVAL WITH US?

AFTER THIS...

I CAN LET GO OF ALL THESE PATHETIC THOUGHTS.

NOW IT'S OVER.

HUH?

PLEASE STOP...

AOI-SAN?

IT'S TAKING ALL I HAVE JUST TO STAY STANDING.

HOLMES-SAN...?

WHO'S THAT?!

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

WOW, HE'S SUPER HOT!

YOU MUST BE AOI-SAN'S FRIENDS.

Ooh!

IS HE...

YEAH... I DO.

A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU ALL. I'M YAGASHIRA KIYOTAKA.

I'M A STUDENT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AT KYOTO UNIVERSITY.

Oh, I know!

IF YOU'RE EVER INTERESTED, YOU SHOULD COME VISIT.

I CAN SHOW YOU AROUND.

KYOTO UNIVERSITY?!

京大生!?

OH, Y-YEAH.

AOI-SAN, HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR TALK?

FWISH

THEN, SHALL WE?

WAIT A SECOND!

KATSUMI ...?

WHO THE HELL IS THIS GUY?

YOUR BOY-FRIEND?!

THE HECK?

THE MINUTE WE BREAK UP,

YOU START DATING SOME KYOTO UNIVERSITY GUY?!

WHAT DO YOU CARE? YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH SANAE!

TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...

BUT AOI GETS A NEW GUY AND SUDDENLY YOU MISS HER?

WAIT, SANAE!

THEN TELL US WHAT YOU DID MEAN.

LET'S GO, AOI-SAN.

BUT... THANK YOU.

HOLMES-SAN.

I WAS SO SURPRISED TO RUN INTO YOU.

TO BE HONEST, I'D REACHED MY LIMIT.

NOBODY CARED ABOUT HOW I FELT.

ALL MY FRIENDS TOOK THEIR SIDE.

THEY JUST KEPT ON APOLOGIZING...

I MANAGED TO SAY IT.

BUT I...

THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THEM...

"BE HAPPY."

YOU DON'T GOTTA FORCE YOURSELF TO SMILE.

I GOT WORRIED AND CAME UP TO SEE WHAT WAS GOIN' ON...

IF THEY WERE REALLY SORRY, THEY WOULDN'T NEED TO HIDE BEHIND THEIR FRIENDS.

I NEVER HEARD OF SOMETHIN' SO UNDER-HANDED.

HE GOT ANGRY...

...ON MY BEHALF.

HOLMES-SAN...

YOU GO ON AND CRY.

YOU DID GOOD TODAY, AOI-SAN.

...!

120 PAT 4

WAA-AAAA-AAH!

AA-AA-AH!

蔵

KURA

TICK

TOCK

HERE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WHEW

I DID.

DID YOU RETURN IZUMI-SAN'S TEA BOWL?

DID YOU REALIZE ITS MEANING TOO, AOI-SAN?

MY! おや

AND...

DID YOU GIVE HER A REPLY?

YEAH... SORT OF.

I can't tell him I looked it up on the sly...

THAT WAS THE REPLY I GAVE HER WITH THE TEA BOWL. IT'S A PLAY ON SUO NO NAISHI'S POEM.

"FOR A PASSING WHIM AS BRIEF AS A SUMMER DREAM, TO REST ON YOUR ARM..."

"WHAT WORTH HAS SUCH A PILLOW, IF IT SHOULD SMOTHER MY NAME?"

"I DON'T WANT TO DEAL WITH ANNOYING RUMORS ABOUT OUR RELATION-SHIP...

...JUST TO SHARE A BED FOR A MOMENT THAT PASSES AS QUICKLY AS A DREAM ON A SPRING NIGHT."

THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS.

SO, IN TURN, HOLMES-SAN'S VERSION MEANS...

THE ORIGINAL GOES...

"FOR A TIME OF BLISS AS BRIEF AS A SPRING NIGHT'S DREAM, TO REST ON YOUR ARM...

WHAT WORTH HAS SUCH A PILLOW, IF IT SHOULD SMOTHER MY NAME?"

...YOU SEE.

AN ELEGANT BUT BITING REPLY...

THAT'S A KYOTO BOY FOR YOU.

"I don't want to have to deal with rumors about our relation-ship...

...just to indulge a whim of yours that's as fleeting as a dream on a summer night."

OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS ONCE SOMETHING I HELD VERY DEARLY.

BUT THAT IS A THING OF THE PAST NOW.

STILL... DIDN'T IT SHAKE YOU?

...WAS NOT LOVE, BUT HESITATION AND CALCULATION.

AND WHAT I SAW IN THAT TEA BOWL...

IN THE END, ALL SHE SOUGHT WAS AN ESCAPE FROM HER ANXIETIES ABOUT HER MARRIAGE.

IT'S THE SAME WITH MY FATHER'S WRITING.

ART WILL ALWAYS REVEAL ITS CREATOR'S HEART.

If only I could become strong like him...

All that crying I did...

Holmes-san is amazing.

He can always see the truth calmly.

ちみみみ

BLUUUUUSH

R-RING

N-NO, NOTHING!

AOI-SAN? IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

OWNER, MANAGER...

WE INTER-RUPTIN' SOMETHIN' HERE?

...YOU NEVER CHANGE, OWNER.

AH, I THOUGHT I SAW THE LIGHTS ON.

GOOD EVENING, AOI-SAN.

KIYO-TAKA!

Yes, yes.

COFFEE, RIGHT?

HAVE YOU BEEN ENJOYING YOURSELF, AOI-SAN?

Oh, yes!

IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL, MAGICAL NIGHT.

I SEE THE GANG'S ALL HERE!

THIS A FRIEND OF YOURS, KIYOTAKA-CHAN?

HE'S AWFUL HANDSOME!

I WAS LOOKING AT THE YAMABOKOS AND JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY.

HEDA-SAN AND MIEKO-SAN.

AKIHI-TO-SAN, TOO!

Whoa!

AOI-CHAN, YOU LOOK TOTALLY CUTE IN A YUKATA!

WELL? DID YA GET TO SEE YOUR FRIENDS?

IF YOU'RE HERE TO HIT ON HER, YOU CAN SEE YOURSELF OUT.

AWW, IT WAS JUST A COMPLIMENT!

KIYOTAKA. THE COFFEE!

You're way too over-protective!

WE TALKED AT THE HOTEL...

AND I GOT TO SAY GOODBYE.

YES.

THIS IS FOR THE BEST.

It's time to say goodbye to the me who was always looking back.

From now on, I'm going to look ahead as I walk forward.

And that starts here, in this place filled with warmth.

CHAPTER 8
END

Since it was the first episode, people from all the various companies got together to say hi.

I DIDN'T REALIZE SO MANY PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED...

MOCHIZUKI-SENSEI IS ALSO FROM KYOTO! SHE'S SO FRIENDLY AND NICE! SHE'S ALSO REALLY CONSIDERATE! JUST WONDERFUL!

I brought ajari mochi!

In May, I stopped in on a recording session for the first episode of the *Holmes of Kyoto* anime.

After the voice actors introduced themselves, they started recording.

I'M ISHIKAWA KAITO. I PLAY YAGASHIRA KIYOTAKA.

BORN AND RAISED IN TOKYO,

I'M TOMITA MIYU, PLAYING MASHIRO AOI! NICE TO MEET YOU ALL!

I was impressed anew by what it means to express yourself with your voice.

The smallest difference in tone, force, or breathing can completely change the feel of a line.

A LITTLE MORE NUANCE OF ACQUIESCENCE, PLEASE.

ブース BOOTH

I KNOW ALL THESE VOICE ACTORS...

They put effort into even the tiniest details with feedback from the director, sound director, and Mochizuki-sensei.

FANGIRL

"...OUT THE DOOR?"

"...OUT THE DOOR?"

"...OUT THE DOOR?"

?

?

?

WOW...

THAT'S IT!

YOUR "OUT" IS A LITTLE HIGH.

There was even a Kyoto dialect instructor there.

KIYOTAKA'S LINE 清貴の

THE INTONATION ISN'T QUITE RIGHT ON "COULD YOU CAST SOME SALT OUT THE DOOR?"

THAT'S TOUGH!

I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE AT ALL!

BORN IN OSAKA. RAISED IN CHIBA

SERIOUS BUSINESS

LET ME TRY ONE MORE TIME!

ABOUT 85?

BY THE WAY, HOW MANY TAKES WAS THAT?

Hmm...

BUT I THINK YOU'RE DOING FINE.

WHAT A PROFES-SIONAL...

I hope you'll watch and enjoy the *Holmes of Kyoto* anime, too!

So with all the effort and hard work they're putting into making it just right...